



Roinn Talmhaíochta

(Department of Agriculture)

BRAINSE IASCAIGH

(Fisheries Branch)

REPORT

ON THE

SEA AND INLAND FISHERIES

FOR THE YEAR

1953,

incorporating Statistics of the Capture of Salmon, Sea
Trout and Eels.

DUBLIN:
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

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ADMIRALTY

NAVY DEPARTMENT

11.10.17

(Circular 11.10.17)

NOTE:—Sea fish are divided into two categories, pelagic and demersal. The term "pelagic" (Greek: "pelagos", the sea) is applied to those fish which usually swim at or near the surface of the water. The main varieties of pelagic fish landed are herrings, mackerel and sprats. The term "demersal" (Latin: "Demergere", to plunge down) is applied to those fish which live during adult life at or near the sea bottom. The chief species landed are turbot, brill, soles, plaice, cod, haddock, hake, ling, whiting, conger eel and ray (skate). Shellfish consist of two classes, viz., molluscs, of which the main varieties gathered are oysters, mussels, scallops, periwinkles and cockles, and crustaceans—lobsters, crawfish, crabs, shrimps and prawns.

REPORT

OF THE

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

ON THE

SEA AND INLAND FISHERIES

FOR THE YEAR

1953.

PART I.

SEA FISHERIES.

The increase in turnover from sea-fishing operations recorded in 1952 compared with the preceding year was improved upon in 1953. Landings of sea-fish (not including shell-fish), increased from 203,000 cwt. in 1952, to 222,516 cwt. in 1953, and the corresponding values were £478,774 and £545,105. The increase in weight amounted to 9·6 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and the value rose by 13·8 per cent. The over-all average price realised was £2 9s. 0d. per cwt., as against £2 7s. 2d. per cwt. in 1952, and £2 6s. 0d. in 1951.

The following table gives the quantity and value of sea-fish (not including shell-fish) landed in each of the past ten years :—

Year		Cwt.	£
1953	...	222,516	545,105
1952	...	203,000	478,774
1951	...	187,645	431,875
1950	...	214,236	442,309
1949	...	234,674	507,342
1948	...	385,243	595,647
1947	...	316,438	547,185
1946	...	326,039	562,769
1945	...	371,937	551,820
1944	...	306,869	513,063

The leading fishing ports in 1953 ranked in order of value of landings were Killybegs, Howth, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Arklow, Dingle, Balbriggan, Clogherhead and Schull.

Catches of sea-fish were sufficient in quantity to meet the market requirements for fresh white fish throughout most of the year, and such occasional shortages as were experienced were met by imports under licences issued in accordance with the provisions of the Fish (Regulation of Import) (No. 2) Order, 1938. Imports of herring were permitted more frequently, as is usual, because that fish is taken in quantity only at particular seasons and, outside of those periods, home supplies are light. The total quantity of white fish and herring so imported in the fresh state in 1953 came to about 19,700 cwt. Small lots of fish were also landed under licence on a few occasions from boats of extern registration which, owing to engine trouble or other cause, had to lie up here.

DEMERSAL FISHERY.—There was an improvement in the quantity of demersal fish landed in 1953 compared with 1952, and the aggregate return to the fishermen was further enhanced by an increase of about 2/- per cwt. in the average price realised for the catches. The three fishing vessels operated by An Bord Iascaigh Mhara landed a total of 4,732 cwt. of demersal fish during the year. The varieties which showed appreciably increased landings were plaice, cod and haddock. Of the other main varieties, whiting landings exceeded by a small margin those of the previous year. Landings of ray or skate fell somewhat. The main landings of demersal fish were made at Killybegs, Howth, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Arklow and Dingle.

The quantity and value of demersal fish landed in each of the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	Cwt.	£	Average value per cwt.
1953	147,757	451,901	s. d. 61 2
1952	134,841	397,276	58 11
1951	119,055	354,536	59 7
1950	119,045	364,702	61 0
1949	151,537	416,275	54 11
1948	152,567	423,436	55 6
1947	143,677	397,008	55 1
1946	156,444	410,021	52 5
1945	164,183	396,897	48 4
1944	139,988	375,343	53 7

PELAGIC FISHERY.—*Herrings.* About 4,000 cwt. more of herring was taken in 1953 than in the previous year. The average price also showed an improvement with the overall result that the total earnings from this fishing were the highest since 1948. The table that follows shows the quantity and value, and the average price per cwt. of the annual herring landings over a ten-year period.

Year	Cwt.	£	Average value per cwt.	
			s.	d.
1953	58,981	70,066	23	9
1952	54,947	60,451	22	0
1951	49,823	56,830	22	10
1950	67,840	55,438	16	4
1949	45,300	49,438	21	10
1948	73,050	73,828	20	3
1947	124,918	111,284	17	10
1946	100,494	96,819	19	3
1945	108,288	96,318	17	9
1944	77,538	81,982	21	2

The Donegal winter fishing contributed most to the total herring landings in 1953. Landings at 30,599 cwt. were more than double the quantity taken in 1952. The fishing off Achill experienced a set-back, and west coast landings generally fell from 15,896 cwt. to 4,661 cwt. The summer shoaling of herring off the east coast was again light, and the catches were only slightly better than in 1952. Fishermen on the south coast also experienced a scarcity of fish and took about 3,000 cwt. less than in the previous year. Ports which fared relatively well as to herring landings were Bunbeg, Burtonport and Kincasslagh in Co. Donegal; Ballycotton in Co. Cork, and Dunmore East in Co. Waterford, while Teelin and Port and Inver, Co. Donegal, and Passage East, Co. Waterford, were moderately successful.

MACKEREL.—The mackerel fishery has for some years been at a very low level of production. The year 1953 saw some advance over 1952, but the total quantity landed was very small compared with some earlier years. The relative figures are set out in the following table:—

Year	Cwt.	£	Average value per cwt.	
			s.	d.
1953	15,374	22,976	29	11
1952	13,018	20,907	32	3
1951	17,017	19,859	23	5
1950	19,838	20,399	20	7
1949	27,220	38,399	28	3
1948	150,076	95,673	12	9
1947	38,260	36,011	18	10
1946	66,934	55,366	16	7
1945	95,568	57,229	12	0
1944	88,294	55,270	12	6

The only significant change in local catches was at Baltimore, Co. Cork, where 3,672 cwt. were landed compared with 2,501 cwt. in 1952. It was again the general experience that the

main mackerel shoals remained at some distance from the coast outside the range of the large number of small type craft which usually engage in seasonal mackerel fishing.

SHELLFISH.—As the returns of some classes of shellfish are expressed by weight and those of other classes are given in numbers, total landings can be indicated in terms of value only. The value of the landings in 1953 at £142,554, was a record one, and exceeded the figure for 1952 by £18,358. The only variety which showed a decline was crawfish. The most noteworthy increase occurred in the case of periwinkles, the value of which rose from £22,380 in 1952 to £32,671 in 1953. Lobsters, escallops, oysters, mussels, crabs, and the unclassified varieties contributed, in that order, to the overall increase. The export trade to France was an important factor in stimulating shell fish production in 1953, as the returns from such exports amounted to close on £48,000. The total value of shellfish takings in each of the past ten years was as follows:—1953, £142,554; 1952, £124,196; 1951, £93,604; 1950, £87,119; 1949, £108,487; 1948, £100,466; 1947, £106,563; 1946, £126,821; 1945, £128,426; 1944, £112,683.

PERSONNEL AND VESSELS.—The number of men recorded as engaged at sea-fishing in 1953 was 9,556, a slight reduction as compared with the corresponding figure of 9,684 in 1952. There was virtually no change in the number of those solely employed, of whom there were 1,749 operating as against 1,754 in the preceding year, and in the partly engaged group there were 7,807 as compared with 7,930 in 1952. The upward trend in the number of motor fishing boats operating which has been evident since 1944, continued in 1953, the number of such boats employed being 665, in contrast with 655 in 1952 and 548 in 1944. Sail boats were, however, fewer at 717 in service as against 730 in 1952, while row boats fell to 1,853 from 1,886.

AN BORD IASCAIGH MHARA.—One of the main functions of the Board (whose fiscal year extended to 31st March, 1954, and to which period the figures given in this section of the Report therefore relate), is the supply to fishermen of boats and gear. These are issued under a hire-purchase scheme whereby repayment of the advances on purchase price is related to the weekly earnings of the fishermen. Issues were made under the scheme during the year of boats to the value of £108,489, and gear to the value of £26,993. The motorboats issued comprised one of 60 feet length, nine of 50 feet, two of 35 feet, and one of 28 feet, ten out of the total of thirteen boats being built in the Board's own boatyards. A few non-powered boats of small size were issued as well. At the end of the year five 50 feet vessels and one 60 feet were under construction for hire-purchase applicants.

The facilities available at the Board's yards for reconditioning, re-engineing, and general servicing of fishing boats, continued to be availed of throughout the year.

In the marketing sphere the Board handled 90,135 cwt. of home caught wet fish valued at £386,045, together with imported white fish to the value of £19,596, which was brought in to supply occasional shortages in home landings. Most of the fish was disposed of by auction sale at Dublin and Cork, the remainder being disposed of on wholesale terms. Included in the foregoing figures are catches to the value of £25,100, returned by three off-shore vessels operated by the Board.

There was an addition to the fish processing and fish meal operations already carried on by the Board when a smoke house of the latest design newly erected at Killybegs, commenced production of kippers during the year. On the distribution side a notable development was the delivery of the first of a number of insulated vans for fish transport which at the close of the year was undergoing tests before being put into regular service.

Details of the Board's activities are published in the Board's Annual Report and Accounts.

AN COMHLACHAS IASCAIGH MHARA.—The formation of An Comhlachas and its purposes generally were referred to in the Report for 1952. The provisional Committee therein mentioned was replaced by elected representatives of the various sections of the fishing industry as from the 23rd June, 1953. The Committee arranged for the production and publication of a periodical *The Irish Fishing and Fish Trades Gazette*, which made its initial appearance on the 26th September, 1953, and has since been published fortnightly. The Committee held five meetings up to 31st March, 1954, and also had a joint meeting with the members of An Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

SEA FISHERIES PROTECTION.—The Marine Patrol Service of the Department of Defence continued its protection of waters within the exclusive fishery limits, and apprehended two fishing vessels which infringed those limits in the course of the year. Convictions were recorded and fines imposed in both cases, and in one of them the fish and gear (valued at £500), found on board were also forfeited. The Garda Síochána gave valuable help as well in the enforcement of the fishery protection laws generally.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS.—During 1953 the investigation of stocks of scallops at Castletownbere (Bantry Bay), was continued. The data relating to samples dredged monthly throughout the season was being collated at the close

of the period under review for the purposes of a general report on the growth and development of Irish scallops. Selected fish from these samples were tagged in the manner described in the Report for 1952 and released, the total number of fish so dealt with up to the end of 1953 being 720. Similarly tagged and released at Castletownbere during 1953 were 186 scallops which had been transferred from the Connemara area. By the close of the year the total recoveries of tags amounted to 227 (140 from Castletownbere native scallops, and 87 from the fish introduced from Connemara). With two possible exceptions, all recaptures have been made at or very near the place where the fish were liberated. With the two-fold object of observing the efficiency of the scallop dredge and studying the distribution on the beds of young and adult scallops, an officer of the Department collaborated with an officer of the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in carrying out an underwater survey of the Castletownbere beds in September, 1953. Some valuable information was thus obtained, and a joint report on the work was at the end of the year being prepared for publication.

Experimental work having for its object the rehabilitation of the public oyster fishery in Clew Bay was continued during the year. In continuation of restocking carried out in previous years, a further supply of seed oysters imported from Brittany was planted in the Spring of 1953 on these beds which continue to remain closed to the public under Bye-Law. There was no evidence of a really successful spat fall on these beds during 1953. Continuous temperature records of the sea water over the critical months of the breeding period are now being recorded.

Investigations into Irish whiting, started in 1952, made considerable progress during the year. Material relating to the age, growth and maturity, as well as the food of these fish has been collected, and a short account of the food of whiting was prepared and accepted for publication in the *Irish Naturalist's Journal*. It is interesting to record that the stomach contents of west coast whiting were found to include specimens of the Argentine (*Argentina sphyraena* L.), a fish rarely encountered in the inshore waters off that coast and not recorded elsewhere as food of whiting. The growth of whiting in Irish waters has been found to be relatively rapid, the approximate lengths at the end of the first and second years being $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, respectively. All two year old whiting examined were sexually mature.

Two scarce fishes were recorded during the year. A specimen of the greater weever (*Trachinus draco*, Cuv.) was obtained from the Cork coast, and a specimen of *Scorpaena dactyloptera* Delaroche was taken in 50 fathoms west of the Near Ground in Dingle

Bay. The latter species is rare within the 100 fathom line, although apparently fairly common in the deeper waters of the Atlantic. Details of these recaptures have been recorded in the *Irish Naturalist's Journal*, and the specimens have been preserved in the National Museum.

As in past years, surface temperatures of sea water at the Coningbeg Lightship have been taken twice daily (morning and evening), and the data has been forwarded to Copenhagen for inclusion in material for the preparation of synoptic charts by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The first post-war scientific cruise for the purpose of collecting hydrographical data was arranged in conjunction with the Department of Defence, an officer of this Department acting as scientist on board L.E. "Cliona". The cruise was commenced at the beginning of March, and observations of surface temperatures and salinity were made at several sections between the west coast of Great Britain and Ireland. These observations were conducted as part of a co-operative programme of research work with the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A list of the papers relating to scientific investigations published during the year is given in Appendix 24.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.—*International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.*—The Inspector and Scientific Adviser attended the annual conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at Copenhagen from 28th September until 6th October, 1953. This country had a special interest in the work of the Salmon and Trout, Shellfish, Atlantic Slope and Hydrographical Committees. Accounts of scallops investigations and of salmon tagging as described later in this Report were read to the Committees concerned. The Department's representative was re-elected Chairman of the Salmon and Trout Committee and a member of the Finance Committee.

International Fisheries Convention, 1946: Permanent Commission.—At a meeting of the delegates of the signatory Governments to the International Fisheries Convention, 1946, held in London in March, 1953, the Department was represented by an officer of the Embassy in London. Agreement, to which effect was later (2nd April, 1953) given by means of a Protocol, was reached on the introduction not later than 5th April, 1954, of regulations by all countries concerned relating to minimum size limits of fish and meshes of nets.

The Permanent Commission set up under the Convention held two meetings in London during the year which were attended by the Inspector and Scientific Adviser as official delegate. The

inaugural meeting held in May was largely concerned with making the organisational and financial arrangements for the commission's working. At the second meeting which took place in November, the Commission decided in relation to waters which embrace those normally fished by Irish boats, that minimum mesh of seine nets should be fixed at 70 mms., instead of 80 mms. as specified in the Convention, and that, for a transitional period of two years from 5th April, 1954, the minimum mesh of trawl nets should be fixed at 75 mms., and thereafter at the size prescribed by the Convention, viz., 80 mms. Minimum meshes of seine and trawl nets for more northern waters not normally fished by Irish boats were also agreed upon at the meeting.

International Fishing Boat Congress, Paris, 12th-16th October, 1953.—This Congress which was convened at the instance of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was attended by the Inspector of Fisheries and Engineer as official delegate. A representative from private industry, Mr. John Tyrrell, M.I.N.A., Arklow, also attended and contributed a paper on "Modern Irish Fishing Boats." In all, sixty-five technical papers were before the Congress. The official delegate acted as rapporteur at the session dealing with a paper on the economic aspects of fishing boat construction.

MARINE WORKS.—The provision of better landing facilities for fishermen is a continuing work in which, year by year, this Department collaborates with the Office of Public Works and other Government Departments and Local Authorities. Structural work on a number of projects previously approved, was completed during the year, and work on others commenced. In addition, preliminary examination of proposals advocated for other centres was considerably advanced.

In pursuance of the decision referred to in the Report for 1952 to provide a number of major fishing stations, a reconnaissance covering the region from Killary Bay to Casla Bay in Co. Galway, was carried out by a team of Office of Public Works engineers with a view to determining what sites offered the best possibilities for development. Following on consideration of the ensuing report, a short list of likely sites was decided upon, and close survey of them was in progress at the end of the year.

LEGISLATION.—One Statutory Instrument (particulars in Appendix No. 22) was made during the year.

PART II.

INLAND FISHERIES.

EXTENT OF FISHERY DISTRICTS AND NAMES OF THE
PRINCIPAL RIVERS IN EACH DISTRICT.

District	Extent of District	Principal Rivers
No. 1 Dublin	Skerries Head to Wicklow Head.	Liffey Vartry
No. 2 Wexford	Wicklow Head to Kiln Bay, east of Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford.	Shaney Avoca
No. 3 Waterford	Kiln Bay, east of Bannow Bay to Helvieck Head, Co. Waterford.	Suir Barrow Nore.
No. 4 Lismore	Helvieck Head to Ballycotton Head, Co. Cork.	Blackwater, Funsition, Bride, Awbeg.
No. 5 Cork	Ballycotton Head to Crow Head, Co. Cork.	Lee, Owenboy, Bandon, Argideen, Hen, Monagh, Owvane, Coomhola, Glengarriff, Adrigole.
No. 7 Kerry	Crow Head, Co. Cork, to Kerry Head, Co. Kerry.	Roughty, Sheen, Finnihy, Blackwater, Sneem, Laune, Flesk, Maine, Caragh, Cur-rane, Cummeragh, Inny.
No. 8 Limerick	Kerry Head, Co. Kerry, to Hag's Head, Co. Clare.	Shannon, Deel, Fergus, Mulcair, Little and Upper Brosna, Inny, Maigue, Feale.
No. 9 ¹ Galway	Hag's Head to a point near Cashla Coastguard Station, Co. Galway.	Corrib, Claregalway.
No. 9 ² Connemara	Cashla Coastguard Station to Slyne Head, Co. Galway.	Ballinahinch, Recess, Cashla, Owengowla, Invermore, Inverbeg, Scroobe, Farnace.
No. 10 ¹ Ballinakill	Slyne Head to Pigeon Point, Westport Bay, Co. Mayo.	Culfin, Erric, Bunderaghua, Dawros, Carrowniskey, Bun-owen (Louisburgh).
No. 10 ² Bangor	Pigeon Point to Benwee Head, Co. Mayo.	Newport, Burrishoole, Owenduff, Owengarve, Owennore, Glenamoy.

District	Extent of District	Principal Rivers
No. 11 Ballina	Benwee Head to Coonamore Point, Co. Sligo.	Moy, Cloonaghmore (Palmerston), Euskey.
No. 12 Sligo	Coonamore Point to Mullaghmore Headland, Co. Sligo.	Ballisodare, Garavogue (Sligo), Bonet, Drummeliff.
No. 13 Ballyshannon	Mullaghmore Headland to Rossan Point, Co. Donegal.	Erne, Bundrowes, Bunduff, Eske, Baney Water, Oily, Glen.
No. 14 ¹ Letterkenny	Rossan Point to Malin Head, Co. Donegal.	Owenea, Gweebarra, Gweadore (Crolly), Clandy, Lackagh, Lemon, Cram.
No. 17 ² Dundalk	Carlingford Lough to Clogher Head, Co. Louth.	Fane, Dee, Glyde.
No. 17 ¹ Drogheda	Clogher Head to Skerries Head, Co. Dublin.	Boyne, Blackwater, Deel.

NOTE.—The area comprised in the former No. 14² or Moyville District was, by the Foyle Fisheries Act, 1952, incorporated in the Foyle Area which is administered by the Foyle Fisheries Commission.

INLAND FISHERIES.

Each year holders of licences issued by Boards of Conservators for the capture of salmon, sea trout and eels are obliged, under the terms of the Statistics (Salmon, Sea Trout and Eels) (No. 2), Order, 1945, to furnish reports of their catches. According to returns for the year 1953, the catch of salmon was 1,851,407 lb., valued at the time of landing at £525,105, compared with 1,857,949 lb., valued at £471,740, for 1952. These figures do not include catches in the former Moville District which became part of the Foyle area in 1952 under the provisions of the Foyle Fisheries Act of that year. Certain particulars relating to catch in the Foyle area are included in the paragraph dealing with the Foyle Fisheries Commission. The catches of sea trout, which have fluctuated between 50,000 and 60,000 lb. for the past two decades, amounted to 61,838 lb., valued at £8,431 in 1953, compared with 58,650 lb. valued at £7,682 in 1952.

Throughout most fishery districts weather conditions were favourable in the beginning of the season towards netting, but the runs proved to be poor. In consequence, the catches were seldom more than average for the time of the year, and many districts relying on spring fish, such as on the eastern seaboard, had poor seasons. Large spring fish which have spent three years feeding in the sea and normally form a large part of the catches up to the end of March, were comparatively scarce during 1953. The runs of salmon in most rivers from the middle of May until the middle of June were poor, owing to the scarcity of small spring and small summer fish, which have spent respectively, two full years and a little more than two full years feeding in the sea. In most areas, the grilse did not arrive until at least two, and frequently three, weeks later than usual. Although it is naturally difficult to assess accurately the numbers of grilse in most fisheries, relevant information, including catch figures, suggests that in spite of the delay in the runs the grilse season was satisfactory in most districts, and in some western districts the runs of grilse were probably of the same order as those of 1941 which has been regarded as a record in recent years.

Although, therefore, the catch was of the same order in 1953 as that of the previous year, there were considerable variations from district to district, as will be seen from Appendix 12. In 1953 the catch of salmon was distributed as follows:—

Draft nets	...	...	...	...	48.2%
Drift nets	...	...	...	...	20.1%
Stake nets and other commercial methods	...	...	...	...	20.3%
Rods	...	...	...	...	11.4%

The number of salmon taken on rod and line (26,931), exceeded that of 1952 (23,838), but there was a decline in the weight of the fish landed from 225,225 lb. in 1952, to 211,129 lb. in 1953. This decline in the average weight from 9.4 lb. in 1952 to 7.8 lb. in 1953, may be attributed to the reduced catches of spring fish, particularly large spring fish, in the early salmon rivers, and the increase in the catches in the summer and late rivers of the south and west.

The total number of rod licences (excluding endorsements) issued in 1953, was 6,050, and the average catch per rod was 4.5 fish weighing 34.9 lb. and valued at £9 17s. 0d. The highest average weight of fish on the rod was for the Drogheda District (14.4 lb.), the main river in which, the Boyne, normally has substantial runs of large spring fish which themselves as a group average 20 lb. and upwards. The lowest average weight of fish taken on rod and line was recorded for the Ballina District (6.4 lb.) which, as is well known, is mainly a summer fish district.

The total weight of sea trout, which as mentioned previously, has fluctuated about the level of 50,000 to 60,000 lb. in recent years, taken in 1953 was 61,838 lb., of which 70.9% were taken by rod and line, 21.4% by draft nets, and 7.7% by other commercial methods. The proportion of sea trout taken on rod and line in 1953 was slightly higher than in the previous year, and the actual rod catch was also higher. Landings of sea trout on rod and line in the Kerry District exceeded that of any other single district. Substantial quantities of sea trout were also landed on rod and line in the Connemara, Cork, Ballinakill, Bangor, Wexford and Letterkenny Districts. Of all the foregoing, only in the Kerry District did the average weight of sea trout exceed one pound. The total number of sea trout returned as landed by rod and line was 46,019, and the average catch per rod for the country as a whole was 7.6 fish weighing 7.2 lb. and valued at 18s. 7d. There is, of course, considerable variation in the catch per rod of sea trout from district to district. The average quantity of sea trout landed per licence (excluding endorsements), ranged from 22.9 fish for the Connemara District downwards. More than 10 sea trout per rod were landed in the Ballinakill (20.3 fish), Kerry (16.4 fish), Cork (14.0 fish), and Bangor Districts (10.7 fish). It is very difficult, however, to obtain precise information regarding the actual sea trout catch for rod since relatively few licence holders fish for sea trout only. Only one example need be cited. In the Cork district a relatively high proportion of the sea trout taken on rod and line are landed by persons fishing the Ilan River near Skibbereen. Some of these anglers took up to 200 sea trout during the short angling season of six to eight weeks. It must also be remembered that some of the licence holders are visitors who only fish for one or two days in any one district.

During the early part of the drift net fishing season (from May to July), off the northern coast of Mayo and the Donegal coast, the season was favourable towards these operations, and good catches were obtained in a few areas where fish were running. The last two weeks of June and the first few days of July were, however, very unfavourable as the nights were bright and the sea calm, successful drift netting requiring dark stormy nights. Despite this handicap, when the runs of grilse materialised, good catches were obtained, and the season ran on much later than usual. This can be attributed to the late arrival of grilse as mentioned earlier.

The migration of smolts was reported as being satisfactory in most districts, and the spawning season of 1953-54 was, according to reliable reports, exceedingly good. In some areas excellent spawning was reported, due, no doubt, in the main to the belated runs of grilse which entered the rivers during the heavy floods which prevailed in some areas in the month of July.

Outbreaks of furunculosis were observed in a few places, and in one district where this disease has been identified almost continually for the past twenty-five years, the attacks appeared to be somewhat less than usual.

The yield of eel fisheries showed a slight decline in 1953 when compared with that of 1952. The catch of 1953 was returned as 1,691 cwts. valued at £19,722 against 1,971 cwts. valued at £24,420 for 1952. The catch of eels in the various districts during the past three years is given in Appendix No. 14. The decline in the yield of the eel fisheries was not general, as in the Galway district there was a marked increase over 1952. There were also increases in the Dundalk and Sligo districts. On the other hand, in the Limerick district, the catch was down by approximately 42%, and that of the Ballyshannon district showed a very considerable reduction on previous years. In the latter case hydro-electric development of the river put out of action most of the eel weirs on the river Erne between Ballyshannon and Belleek. Freshwater eels are seldom eaten in this country, and almost the entire catch is exported, chiefly to markets in Great Britain where they have to face the competition of British as well as Danish and Dutch eels. There was a slight drop in the average price of Irish eels in 1953 when compared with that of the two previous years.

BOARDS OF CONSERVATORS.

The receipts and expenditure of Boards of Conservators

during the fishery years ended 30th September, 1953, and 30th September, 1952, were :—

RECEIPTS :	1953 £	1952 £
Licence Duty	16,234	15,879
Fishery Rates	27,143	26,053
Subscriptions	593	413
Exchequer Grants	9,565	6,020
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,520	2,147
	<hr/> £56,055	<hr/> £50,512
EXPENDITURE :		
Salaries, etc.	10,521	9,392
Travelling, etc.	11,077	9,982
Protection of Rivers	31,572	30,044
Law Costs	1,365	1,940
	<hr/> £54,535	<hr/> £51,358

The foregoing summary of receipts and expenditure does not include sums received by way of special local licence duty which were surrendered to the Exchequer under Section 13 of the Fisheries (Tidal Waters) Act, 1934. Details of the receipts and expenditure of each Board are given in Appendix No. 18.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY.

The number of fishermen who engaged in seasonal netting for salmon in tidal waters under common law right, is estimated at 4,000, while 322 others were employed by proprietors of commercial salmon fisheries. Approximately 680 persons found employment as professional anglers or ghillies. Boards of Conservators employed 1,219 waterkeepers, 92 others being employed by the owners of private fisheries and by angling associations. Over 6,300 persons, therefore, obtained either whole-time or part-time employment in the inland fisheries in 1952-53.

INSTRUMENTS OF CAPTURE.

The total number of fishing licences of all kinds issued in 1953 was 8,444, which is 454 greater than last year's record figure. The totals for recent years were as follows :—

1952, 7,990 ; 1951, 7,563 ; 1950, 6,875 ; 1949, 6,334.

The increase in the issues of salmon rod licences noted in last year's Report was continued, the returns for all categories of rod licences being appreciably greater than the figures for 1952. Whole season rod licences increased from 4,111 to 4,137,

while endorsement extensions to other fishery districts numbered 862, as compared with 729 in the preceding year. Issues of 14 day licences advanced from 1,229 (1952), to 1,458 (1953), and of £1 licences (issued in certain districts from 1st July onwards) from 376 (1952), to 455 (1953). The grand total of 6,912 rod licences shows an increase of 467 on the total for 1952.

Appendix No. 19 shows the numbers of the various classes of licences issued in each Fishery District. The rates of licence duty are shown in Appendix No. 20.

SALMON EXPORTS.

The quantity of salmon exported in 1953 was 16,766 cwts., valued at £666,147, as compared with 18,043 cwts. valued at £638,500 exported in 1952, and 22,809 cwts. valued at £843,832 in 1951.

Although the quantity exported in 1953 was lower than in the previous year, the higher prices obtained brought the value of the exports somewhat above the value of the 1952 exports. The average price obtained over the year was in excess of 7/- a lb. the highest price since statistics were first collected. The export trade in salmon was handled by 107 holders of salmon export licences issued under the authority of the Agricultural and Fishery Products (Regulation of Export) Act, 1947 (Export of Salmon) Order, 1950 (S.I. No. 90 of 1950). Exports were again mainly consigned to Great Britain, but the French market took a larger proportion of exports than in previous years.

ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION OF SALMON AND TROUT.

Water conditions during the greater part of the spawning season favoured the collection of brown trout ova, and output from all hatcheries was satisfactory. The brown trout hatcheries at Loughs Owel and Ennell, which are operated by the Department in conjunction with the local angling associations, yielded 1,378,000 ova, of which 850,000 were distributed to angling associations and other applicants; the remaining 528,000 being released into the rivers flowing into Loughs Owel or Ennell and in Lough Glore, where experiments in connection with the removal of coarse fish are being carried out. 350,000 brown trout ova were imported to supplement home production and these ova were also distributed.

Conditions were also generally favourable for the production of salmon ova, and 488,000 ova were distributed under official auspices, the bulk of these being obtained from the State sponsored hatchery at Glenties and the hatchery at Lismore which is operated by the Lismore Estates Company in conjunction with the Department.

Only a very small quantity of sea trout ova was produced at Glenties hatchery during the season, and distribution to applicants was not feasible.

Details of the fry produced at all stations are given in Appendix No. 23, the most notable being 600,000 salmon and 120,000 brown trout fry released from Banteer hatchery, and 382,000 brown trout fry released from Oughterard hatchery. Each of these hatcheries was subsidised from the Fisheries Vote.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS.

Investigations into the movements of salmon around Ireland were continued during the year. Tagging of adult salmon was resumed at Rath, Co. Kerry, and 206 fish (mostly grilse), were tagged during the season, of which 60 or approximately 29% were recaptured before the end of the year. These recaptures were made in the Feehanagh, Fergus, Imny and Waterville (Currane) rivers to the north of the tagging point, and in the rivers flowing into Kenmare and Bantry Bays to the east and south of the point of release. Since the commencement of tagging experiments at this centre, a total of 494 fish has been tagged and 119, or approximately 24% have been recaptured up to the end of 1953. Operations are now complete at this station, and a paper to publish the results of the work was in preparation at the close of the period under review.

Arrangements were made to tag salmon taken by commercial drift nets off the Donegal coasts by fishing boats based at Bunbeg and Downings, but results were disappointing. It was possible to tag 50 fish only and, of these 8 were recaptured. One fish was taken in each of Donegal rivers Crana, Clady and Owenca, and 5 in the Moy river in Co. Mayo well to the south-west.

Tagging of smolts was continued at Clondulane on the River Blackwater, Cork, at Cliff on the River Erne, and operations were extended to the River Shannon. One fish tagged as a smolt in the previous year was recaptured from the tidal waters of the Bandon River. Kelts were tagged at Glenties, Co. Donegal, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo, Treanlaur, Co. Mayo, Banteer, Co. Cork, and Lismore, Co. Waterford, in conjunction with hatchery operations carried out at these centres during 1953. A few fish which had been tagged as kelts in previous years were recaptured, but the material obtained so far is not of sufficient volume to justify any special conclusions.

Officers of the Fisheries Branch again collaborated with officers of the Ministry of Commerce, Belfast, in working out results from tagging experiments carried out at Portballintrae, Co. Antrim.

The investigations into the stocks of salmon of the River Shannon which have been in progress since 1928 were continued, and the material secured in 1952 and 1953 was under examination during the latter year. Material furnished by the owner of the chief fishery on the Casla River in Connemara, consisting of scales from sea trout and salmon from that river, was prepared for examination.

The experimental scheme for the removal of coarse fish from Loughs Rea, Glore and Barnagrow, was continued during 1953, and an investigation into the age and growth of perch from these lakes was almost completed by the end of the year, and examination of material relating to pike taken from the same lakes over the years 1950 to 1953 was commenced. There is evidence that the removal of coarse fish has turned the balance in favour of trout in two of the three lakes mentioned. Good stocks of trout have been built up in Lough Rea, and the stocks in Lough Glore show an improvement, probably as a result of the work mentioned.

Experiments in the artificial enrichment of lakes by the addition of ground limestone, superphosphate and potash in rotation were continued during the year. The treatment of the waters may be regarded as completed so far as Loughs Kinlooe, near Westport, and Aunemlough are concerned, but further specimens of fish have yet to be obtained from these lakes for age and growth determination in order to ascertain the effect of the experiments on the trout stocks. It is necessary to add further nutrients to Barfinnehy Lough near Kenmare, and Lough Ananina near Glenties.

In continuation of the experiment initiated in November, 1952, with the object of studying the effects of environment and food supplies on growth rate, a further number of brown trout was removed with the collaboration of Mr. C. W. Roberts, the fishery owner, from Lough Feeagh, Co. Mayo, and released after tagging into Lough Conn.

The surveys of the River Dodder and of the brown trout fisheries in Caragh Lake, Co. Kerry, which have been mentioned in previous reports, were continued during the year. A specimen of Coles Char (*Salvelinus colii*, Gunther), was obtained from Currane Lake near Waterville, on the 5th August for examination. Coles Char is by far the commonest of the six so-called species of Irish Char, and thirty-one specimens have been examined since 1945. Two specimens of the blunt snouted Char (*S. obtusus*, Regan), were also obtained during the same period. A series of specimens of the Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra Branchialis*, Day), were also examined. Unlike the lamprey found in the Great Lakes region of North America, the Brook Lamprey found in Ireland is not regarded as a source of danger to our fisheries.

The scientific staff of the Department continued to advise on many aspects of fisheries development, including the construction and operation of fish hatcheries, control of predators, etc. A number of fish were examined at the request of Boards of Conservators where expert evidence as to condition of the fish, method of capture, etc., was required in connection with legal proceedings. Members of the public continued to avail of the service described in the Report for 1952 whereby information as to the life history of the fish is furnished in respect of samples of scales submitted from unusual captures.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE FISHERY LAWS.

The number of prosecutions for fishery offences (219), showed a decrease of 54 on the total for 1952. The licence of one salmon dealer was revoked during the year on his conviction for contraventions of the Fisheries Acts. There were no prosecutions during the year for flax water pollution.

The Garda Síochána and members and employees of angling associations rendered valuable assistance to Boards of Conservators in the protection of the inland fisheries during 1953.

FOYLE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Foyle Fisheries Act, 1952, the management of the tidal waters of the River Foyle and the conservation and protection of the fisheries in the Foyle Area (which consists of the former Moville and Londonderry Fishery Districts) was carried out during the year by the Foyle Fisheries Commission, the personnel of which remained unchanged during the year 1953. The total catch of salmon and sea trout for the Area for 1953 according to returns published by the Commission was as follows:—

	SALMON		SEA TROUT		TOTAL	
	Number	lb.	Number	lb.	Number	lb.
Nets	52,171	385,248	1,595	1,809	53,766	387,057
Rods	2,071	13,580	3,202	3,495	5,273	17,075
Total	54,242	398,828	4,797	5,304	59,039	404,132

With the approval of the Minister the Commission made the Foyle Area (Restriction of Netting) Regulations, 1953, dated 25th March, 1953.

The second Annual Report of the Commission (covering the period 1st October, 1952, to 30th September, 1953), incorporating the Commission's financial accounts has been published and put on sale.

INLAND FISHERIES TRUST INCORPORATED.

This company is provided with a grant-in-aid from Subhead F. 6 of the Fisheries Vote, and £7,760 was received in 1953-54. Waters have now been acquired by the Trust in Counties Meath, Westmeath, Cavan, Longford, Offaly, Tipperary, Roscommon, Galway, Clare, Sligo, Cork, Donegal and Monaghan. These waters have been obtained mainly from the Electricity Supply Board and Irish Land Commission on lease or on an agency basis. Offers of fisheries by private individuals are under consideration. Preservation Committees selected by local Angling Associations assist the Trust in the work of developing the acquired waters.

The development begun in previous seasons on waters controlled by the Trust was continued in 1953, and work was undertaken on the Western Lakes under the arrangement for collaboration with An Bórd Fáilte and local angling associations outlined in the report for 1952. During the twelve months ended 30th September, 1953, 4,187 pike and 331,983 perch were removed from trout waters. From river pools which were drying up 23,000 trout were removed and transferred to safety in other parts of the same systems, and 6,500 small trout were transplanted from overstocked waters to other waters rich in food. At Trust hatcheries in various parts of the country 126,000 trout fry were hatched out and planted in waters being developed; about 2,000 of these fry were reared to the fingerling stage before planting. Biological surveys of a number of waters were carried out. An officer of Fisheries Branch continued to act as Chairman of the Council of the Trust and two other officers as members of the Council.

ENGINEERING.

Hydro-electric and arterial drainage development continued to engage a large measure of the attention of the Fisheries Engineering Staff during 1953. In addition, surveys were carried out on a number of rivers unaffected by power or drainage development where natural and artificial obstructions to the passage of salmon exist. Dangers to fishing waters from industrial and other pollution also called for attention.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES.

The proposals for the hydro-electric development of the River Clady, Co. Donegal, and the River Cummeragh, Co. Kerry, were studied and appropriate recommendations formulated. Work was continued on the removal of natural obstacles on tributaries of the River Lee in order to afford improved access to new spawning grounds in compensation for spawning facilities which will be flooded or otherwise damaged in consequence of

the hydro-electric development of the Lee catchment area. Work on the construction of a salmon pass at Cork waterworks was completed.

The behaviour of the salmon passes constructed at Ballyshannon on the River Erne and at Leixlip on the River Liffey continued to be observed under varying conditions of flow. An electronic fish counting device installed by the Electricity Supply Board at Cathaleen Falls Dam on the River Erne was brought into operation during the year.

Facilities for the ascent of elvers past the hydro-electric station at Ardnacrusha on the River Shannon were examined in March, 1953, and the presence of large numbers of elvers in the tailrace below the power house was noticed. Various methods were employed to enable the elvers to continue upstream past the dam, and although these efforts were not completely successful, satisfactory progress was made towards devising an effective solution to the problem.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE SCHEMES.

The important drainage work on the River Brosna is now approaching completion, and among the matters dealt with in the year under review was the construction of a fish pass at Coola Weir. Designs were prepared for a fish pass at Kilbeggan, and negotiations for its construction were in progress at the close of the year. It is considered that an efficient pass at this point should open up to salmon the whole of the Brosna catchment area above Kilbeggan. A proposal to instal a new sluice for controlling the outflow from Lough Ennell which appeared likely to affect adversely the fisheries of that lake and its tributary streams was modified as a result of investigation and discussion with the Office of Public Works. The revised arrangements agreed upon will, it is believed, greatly mitigate, if not prevent, damage to fisheries through the lowering of water levels at this point. The arrangements will be reviewed following upon observation of actual working over a period of a few years.

Drainage work on the Rivers Glyde and Dec in Co. Louth and on the River Feale in Co. Kerry, was continued, and safeguards were settled with the responsible authorities to ensure the preservation of spawning facilities.

Work on the tidal barrage at Clarecastle, Co. Clare, and on the altered type of fish pass which has been incorporated in the barrage, approached completion. The design of the drainage scheme for the Corrib catchment area, which had reached an advanced state at the end of the year, necessitated frequent consultation with the Office of Public Works. Work was begun on the drainage of the River Erne as part of the joint hydro-

electric and drainage scheme undertaken by the Electricity Supply Board and the Ministry of Finance, Belfast. The progress of the work and its possible effect on the fisheries of the area concerned were kept under surveillance.

Contact was maintained with the engineering staffs of local authorities carrying out drainage works under the Local Authorities (Works) Act, 1949, in areas adjacent to fishing waters.

TURF DEVELOPMENT.

The many schemes of bog development undertaken at various places for the production of fuel for thermal electric stations were studied in an effort to mitigate any possible injury to fisheries. Experience indicates that bog development work normally means the unavoidable discharge of large quantities of silt, and the possibility of devising means for its interception before reaching rivers where it may damage fisheries or spawning beds is being examined.

GENERAL.

At the request of the Foyle Fisheries Commission, obstructions to the passage of salmon in the Rivers Finn and Deel, Co. Donegal, were examined, and designs prepared for fish passes over certain obstructions in these rivers. The question of the rehabilitation of the River Deel as a spawning river was investigated in some detail.

Fish passes were also designed in order to enable fish to overcome an obstruction on an outflow stream from Lough Rea, Co. Galway, and on a weir at Chapelizod, Co. Dublin. Surveys were carried out at Portlaw on the River Clodiagh, Co. Waterford, Castletown on the River Nore, Castlecomer on the River Dinin, and Castletownroche on the River Awbeg. Investigations were made into flow conditions at Russell's Weir on the River Lennon, and natural obstructions on the River Owenglin, near Clifden, were also examined.

Fishing pools on the River Owenea were staked to prevent illegal netting. Certain eel weirs on the River Barrow which were regarded as obstructions to the ascent of salmon, were surveyed, and precautions were suggested to mitigate damage to fisheries arising out of the use of explosives in deepening the approach to New Ross Harbour. Dredging proposals on the River Moy and other matters of fishery interest claimed attention. Definitions of tidal and freshwater boundaries and other statutory limits were set out in respect of a number of rivers.

The Inspector and Engineer, who acts as Chairman to An Bord Iascaigh Mhara, took part in the first International fishing Boat Congress held in Paris in October, 1953, under auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

He was also present with the Inspector and Scientific Adviser at a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh when an important paper relating to the design and performance of electrical fish screens and counters was read and discussed.

Advice and assistance on engineering matters continued to be afforded to Boards of Conservators and angling associations.

LEGISLATION.

The Fisheries (Consolidation) Bill, 1952, was examined during the year by the Standing Joint Committee on Consolidation Bills, and the report of the Committee was presented to both Houses of the Oireachtas on 29th July, 1953. No further stages of the Bill were taken during the period under review.

The Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1953, became law during the year. This enactment empowered the Minister to authorise by bye-law the use of draft nets for the capture of trout in certain lakes, and to permit by Order the operation of a specified fishing weir without a free gap, subject to certain conditions in each case. The Statute also revised some of the provisions of the fishery code relating to the protection of waters from pollution, and extended the provisions of Section 12 and the First Schedule to the Fisheries Act, 1925, so as to enable Boards of Conservators to issue single salmon rod licences at a reduced fee to persons holding full season salmon rod licences issued in respect of the Foyle Area under the Foyle Fisheries Act, 1952.

The Salmon Conservancy Fund Bill, 1953, which was introduced in An Dáil on the 10th December, 1953, provided for the establishment of a fund named the Salmon Conservancy Fund, the main income of which would be derived from a levy proposed to be imposed on exports of salmon and on salmon rod licences. The object of the fund was to provide monies from which payments could be made at the discretion of the Minister to supplement the income of Boards of Conservators whose income from other statutory sources was deemed insufficient by the Minister to defray the cost of the protection services, and it was hoped that this would improve fishery protection generally throughout the country. The Bill had not reached its final stages before the close of the year.

During the year a number of Statutory Instruments and Bye-Laws were made, particulars of which are given in Appendix No. 22.

(Sgd.) JAMES M. DILLON.

Minister for Agriculture.

4th August, 1954.

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APPENDIX No. 1.

Total Quantity and Value of SEA FISH (excluding Salmon) returned as LANDED during the year 1953.

KINDS OF FISH	EAST COAST (Ormeau to Carnsore Point)		SOUTH COAST (Carnsore Point to Loop Head)		WEST COAST (Loop Head to Erris Head)		NORTH COAST (Erris Head to Moville)		TOTAL	
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
Brill	93	684	400	3,239	172	1,385	313	3,877	978	9,185
Cod	14,046	63,013	1,085	4,410	232	1,125	2,796	14,405	18,159	82,953
Conger Eel	246	156	162	307	—	—	5	16	413	479
Haddock	294	1,090	1,234	2,358	100	329	5,222	10,679	6,859	14,465
Hake	1,059	3,033	538	707	144	301	366	2,068	2,107	6,100
Lang	18	19	191	577	50	150	320	1,464	579	2,210
Plaice	11,921	56,492	7,206	35,470	957	7,529	4,417	33,702	24,498	133,193
Ray or Skate	5,965	13,457	5,244	11,891	2,226	7,407	2,293	8,460	15,728	41,215
Soles	382	3,016	1,084	10,109	82	1,219	278	3,228	1,826	17,572
Turbot	68	529	532	4,281	73	648	263	3,299	936	8,757
Whiting	19,281	28,857	18,619	26,724	6,445	16,489	6,733	14,763	51,078	86,833
Other kinds	4,137	9,657	8,831	19,459	3,216	7,541	8,412	12,273	24,596	48,930
TOTAL DEMERSAL	57,510	180,012	45,123	119,532	13,706	44,123	31,418	108,234	147,757	451,901
Herrings	9,853	14,132	13,868	20,959	4,661	6,209	30,599	28,766	58,981	70,066
Mackerel	692	896	9,303	13,166	2,429	4,241	2,950	4,733	15,374	22,976
Sprits	—	—	—	—	—	—	404	162	404	162
TOTAL PELAGIC	10,545	15,028	23,171	34,065	7,090	10,450	33,953	33,661	74,759	93,204
TOTAL WET FISH	68,055	195,040	68,294	153,597	20,796	54,573	65,371	141,895	222,516	545,105
Crabs	No. 19,236	354	No. 13,878	289	No. —	—	No. 40,560	833	No. 73,074	1,476
Crayfish	—	—	54,187	12,643	21,540	3,932	1,466	214	77,193	16,789
Escallops	—	—	210,226	2,897	530,068	6,372	—	—	740,294	9,269
Lobsters	39,144	6,190	122,975	25,398	78,623	11,810	116,451	18,036	358,193	61,434
Oysters	—	—	61,944	544	562,281	5,771	15,616	174	639,841	6,489
Mussels	Cwt. 13,267	4,978	Cwt. 2,761	690	Cwt. —	—	Cwt. 286	261	Cwt. 16,314	5,929
Periwinkles	1,726	1,580	16,471	11,487	13,452	11,278	6,684	5,326	38,333	32,671
Other Shell Fish	7,112	7,187	4,936	1,160	163	141	9	9	8,320	8,497
TOTAL VALUE SHELLFISH	—	20,280	—	58,108	—	39,304	—	24,853	—	142,554
TOTAL VALUE ALL FISH	—	215,320	—	211,705	—	93,877	—	166,748	—	687,659

APPENDIX No. 2.

Comparison for the eight years, 1946-53, of the Average Prices per cwt. of various kinds of Sea Fish.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brill ...	6 18 2	6 18 9	7 1 11	7 12 9	8 6 5	7 14 5	8 14 11	9 7 10
Cod ...	3 14 5	3 13 4	3 11 9	4 13 6	4 14 2	4 15 3	4 5 7	4 11 4
Conger Eel ...	1 8 11	1 12 2	1 13 3	1 13 5	1 16 7	1 18 0	1 16 2	1 3 2
Haddock ...	4 4 6	2 11 2	2 5 6	3 16 3	4 7 0	4 15 4	3 12 8	2 2 2
Hake ...	3 14 10	3 10 9	4 16 3	4 10 0	4 7 4	3 8 11	2 18 7	2 18 0
Ling ...	2 7 0	2 8 0	2 7 1	2 7 7	2 5 9	2 5 3	3 6 0	3 16 4
Plaice ...	4 16 9	4 16 8	4 18 4	5 15 0	5 15 0	5 19 2	5 10 11	5 8 9
Ray or Skate ...	1 12 11	1 14 7	1 18 4	1 17 11	2 2 8	2 3 9	2 5 10	2 12 5
Soles ...	9 3 3	9 7 3	9 10 4	10 2 4	9 18 9	10 5 9	10 8 9	9 12 6
Turbot ...	6 6 9	7 2 4	7 5 0	7 16 7	7 10 0	7 12 4	7 19 8	9 7 1
Whiting ...	1 13 11	1 15 9	1 13 4	1 10 8	1 12 10	1 13 9	1 12 10	1 14 0
Herrings ...	0 19 3	0 17 10	1 0 3	1 1 10	0 16 4	1 2 10	1 2 0	1 3 9
Mackerel ...	0 16 7	0 18 10	0 12 9	1 8 3	1 0 7	1 3 5	1 12 3	1 9 11
Sprats ...	0 5 2	0 6 0	0 5 8	0 6 1	0 5 1	0 6 3	0 8 3	0 8 0

N.B. — "Average price" as shown in this table represents total value divided by total weight for each kind of fish, year by year. It does not purport to take direct cognizance of any abnormal rise or fall in price attributable to a seasonal glut or shortage of a particular kind of fish.

APPENDIX No. 3.

FISH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1953.

(as compared with those of 1952).

	Quantity		Value	
	1952	1953	1952	1953
I.—IMPORTS	cwt.	cwt.	£	£
Fresh and Frozen :				
All varieties exclusive of Shell Fish	26,090	19,722	99,175	51,376
Shell Fish ...	1,827	2,094	8,305	9,878
Cured :	} All varieties inclusive of {	}	168,478	166,010
Canned :				
Shell Fish	16,133	20,380	252,374	389,365
TOTALS	81,095	79,989	528,332	616,629
II.—EXPORTS.				
Fresh :				
Salmon and Trout	18,043	16,769	638,500	666,256
Eels (freshwater)	1,885	1,656	21,603	19,138
Coarse Freshwater Fish	10	10	57	60
Herrings	9,864	16,917	16,041	16,290
Mackerel	1,219	461	3,083	1,169
White Sea Fish	4,132	685	9,404	2,406
Shell Fish ...	37,167	40,478	160,169	161,126
Cured or Salted :				
Herrings	53	1,683	204	3,106
Others	646	316	13,678	14,699
Canned	244	26	5,948	713
TOTALS	73,263	72,101	871,678	881,963

The figures given above for exports of salmon and trout include those relating to exports from the former Moville Fishery District now comprised in the Foyle Area.

APPENDIX No. 4.

SUMMER HERRING FISHING, 1953.

Fishing Port	Duration of Fishing	Quantity	Value
		cwt.	£
Greenore and Carlingford	August and September	375	300
Clogher Head ...	September and October	206	285
Ballinagoul ...	May	275	479
Schull ...	September ...	238	475
Keel and Keam ...	September and October	2,670	2,199
Port and Liver ...	September and October	1,926	2,165
Downings ...	September ...	473	549
Leman Head ...	May to October	234	468
Other Ports ...	May to October	1,512	3,472
TOTALS		7,912	10,485

APPENDIX No. 5.

WINTER HERRING FISHING, 1953/54.

Fishing Port	Duration of Fishing	Quantity	Value
		cwt.	£
Clogher Head ...	November to March ...	305	367
Skerries ...	November to February	1,085	1,120
Howth ...	November to December	2,769	3,957
Wicklow ...	November to December	924	1,409
Arklow ...	November to January	1,212	1,631
Courtown ...	November to December	219	239
Rosslare Strand ...	November to April ...	295	473
Rosslare ...	November to December	458	728
Duncannon ...	November to December	258	301
Passage East ...	November to December	986	1,282
Dimmore East ...	November to February	5,986	5,512
Ballycotton ...	February to March ...	4,230	3,785
Kinsale ...	November to April ...	335	599
Derreen ...	November to April ...	338	254
Sneem ...	November to March ...	1,500	1,552
Keel and Keam ...	November to April ...	984	1,476
Teeling ...	November to April ...	338	508
Malinbeg ...	April ...	251	332
Burtonport ...	November to January	5,562	5,612
Kineasslagh ...	November to December	3,136	2,322
Bunbeg ...	November to December	14,851	11,717
Maheraroarty ...	November to December	202	135
Moyle ...	November to December	1,336	1,336
Other Ports ...	November to April ...	2,532	4,176
TOTALS		50,092	50,835

2,732 barrels and 2,060 half-barrels were cured during the year 1953.

N.B.—Appendix No. 5 deals with a seasonal fishing which extends into part of two calendar years. Consequently, the figures in Appendices Nos. 4 and 5 will not total precisely to the aggregate shown at page 26 of this Report.

APPENDIX No. 6.

SPRING MACKEREL FISHING, 1953.

Fishing Port	Duration of Fishing	Quantity	Value
		cwt.	£
Baltimore ...	April—July ...	3,672	5,995
Valentia ...	April—June ...	1,732	1,734
Lacken ...	June—July ...	345	605
Malinbeg ...	March—July ...	347	347
Other Ports ...	March—July ...	1,018	1,631
TOTALS		7,114	10,512

APPENDIX No. 7.

AUTUMN MACKEREL FISHING, 1953.

Fishing Port	Duration of Fishing	Quantity	Value
		cwt.	£
Loughshinny ...	August ...	401	459
Tramore ...	August and September	224	336
Bunnahon ...	August and September	240	360
Dunabratton ...	August and September	214	321
Old Head of Kinsale ...	August and September	215	323
Clarinbridge ...	August and September	260	390
Porturlin ...	August to October	235	471
Lacken ...	August and September	207	303
Port and Inver ...	September ...	218	407
OTHER LANDINGS:			
22 Ports landing 200-101 cwt. each ...	August to October	3,127	4,315
35 Ports landing 100 cwt. each or less ...	August to October	2,919	4,719
TOTALS		8,260	12,464

Mackerel was not cured in 1953.

APPENDIX No. 8.
PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN FISHING: AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING CRAFT IN 1953.

HOW ENGAGED (i.e., whether solely or partially)	MEN	Steam Vessels		Motor Vessels					Sail Boats					Row Boats		Total Vessels		
		200 tons gross and over	100 tons gross and over but less than 200 tons.	25 tons gross and over.	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class	Un-classed A		Un-classed B	
					20 tons gross and over but less than 25 tons.	15 tons gross and over but less than 20 tons.	10 tons gross and over but less than 15 tons and of 18 feet keel and upwards.	Under 10 tons and of 18 feet keel and upwards.		25 tons net and over.	20 tons net and over but less than 25 tons.	15 tons net and over but less than 20 tons.	10 tons net and over but less than 15 tons and of 18 feet keel and upwards.					Under 10 tons and of 18 feet keel and upwards.	Less than 18 feet keel.
EAST COAST:																		
Solely engaged	547	—	—	47	8	12	14	48	1	—	—	—	1	24	20	98	17	206
Partially engaged	783	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	1	39
Laid-up	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	16	—	36
Totals	1,330	—	—	47	9	12	17	64	2	—	—	—	2	31	21	133	28	365
SOUTH COAST:																		
Solely engaged	708	—	—	16	3	6	40	212	5	—	—	—	5	113	76	354	145	975
Partially engaged	2,610	—	—	—	—	1	2	16	1	—	—	—	—	21	21	34	—	119
Laid-up	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	136	56	278
Totals	3,318	—	—	16	3	7	46	253	6	—	—	—	5	134	97	524	201	1,372
WEST COAST:																		
Solely engaged	220	—	—	6	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	33	315	250	746
Partially engaged	2,341	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	25	26	54	207	524
Laid-up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	4	74	100	193
Totals	2,561	—	—	6	5	1	5	29	—	—	—	—	—	126	63	443	557	1,257
NORTH COAST:																		
Solely engaged	271	—	—	13	1	9	8	126	—	—	—	—	12	192	25	180	122	688
Partially engaged	2,011	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	24	4	8	15	80
Laid-up	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	43	1	37	24	117
Totals	2,317	—	—	14	1	10	12	144	—	—	—	—	12	259	30	222	161	865
TOTALS FOR 1953:																		
Solely engaged	1,749	—	—	82	17	32	67	411	6	—	—	—	18	415	154	947	514	2,693
Partially engaged	7,807	—	—	—	—	—	4	42	—	—	—	—	1	73	56	116	246	542
Laid-up	—	—	—	1	1	4	9	37	—	—	—	—	—	92	31	263	182	624
GRAND TOTALS ...	9,556	—	—	83	18	38	80	490	16	—	—	—	21	580	241	1,326	972	3,850

APPENDIX No. 9.

TRAWLING AND SEINING, 1953.

Port or Locality	Number of men engaged	Number of boats engaged	Tonnage of Motor Boats			Fishing Period
			Not exceeding 10 tons	Over 10 tons	Over 15 tons	
Clogher Head	35	5	—	1	4	All year.
Balbriggan	30	6	—	2	4	All year.
Loughshinny and Skerries	30	6	—	3	3	All year.
Howth	15	15	—	1	14	All year.
Dublin (Ringsend) ...	2	2	—	—	—	June to November.
Dun Laoghaire	36	6	—	1	5	All year.
Arklow	62	15	—	1	14	All year.
Courtown ...	2	2	—	—	—	June to October.
Wexford ...	27	3	—	2	2	All year.
Rossare ...	36	9	—	3	4	January to November.
Kilmore ...	45	15	—	—	—	All year.
Pethard and Slade	9	3	—	—	—	April to November.
Duncannon	21	7	—	—	—	June to December.
Dunmore East	56	9	—	4	—	All year.
Passage East	60	29	28	1	—	All year.
Helwick	32	6	—	5	1	All year.
Ballycotton	11	11	—	1	—	All year.
Cobh	26	7	—	1	—	All year.
Passage West	6	2	—	—	—	February to November.
Crosshaven	3	1	—	—	—	April to September.
Dungarvan	3	1	—	—	—	January and February.
Kinsale	9	3	—	—	—	February to October.
Courtmacsherry	3	1	—	—	—	April to September.
Union Hall	30	10	—	6	—	January to November.
Castletownsend	21	7	—	2	—	All year.
Schull	40	12	—	—	4	All year.
Bantry	32	9	—	1	6	All year.
Castletownbere	3	1	—	—	—	June to September.
Derreen ...	9	3	—	3	—	All year.
Balinskelligs	16	4	—	2	2	All year.
Portmagee	26	6	—	—	2	April to December.
Valentia ...	40	9	—	2	1	All year.
Dingle	73	23	—	9	5	All year.
Liscannor ...	4	1	—	—	—	May to November.
Arran Islands	18	4	—	1	2	All year.
Galway	40	10	—	3	6	All year.
Cleggan ...	8	2	—	—	—	May to November.
Murriak ...	8	—	—	1	1	All year.
Achill	20	5	—	—	3	January to November.
Inishboffin	16	5	—	2	—	March to November.
Ballina ...	6	2	—	—	—	May to September.
Kilennamin and Ross	6	2	—	—	—	July to September.
Enniscrone	12	4	—	—	—	May to November.
Sligo and Strandhill	4	1	—	—	1	May to October.
Bundoran	3	1	—	—	—	June to September.
Killybegs ...	68	16	—	—	14	All year.
Bartonport	6	2	—	—	—	May to October.
Bunbeg	8	2	—	—	—	May to October.
Downings	16	4	—	2	—	February to November.
Bunarona ...	20	6	—	1	1	April to November.
Coldall	44	11	—	—	—	May to November.
Noville	52	13	—	—	2	All year.
Greencastle	24	8	—	1	1	All year.
TOTALS	1,205	354	180	57	107	

APPENDIX No. 10.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

in respect of

Repayable Advances made to the Irish Sea Fisheries Association, Ltd., during the period of twenty-three years to the date of the Association's dissolution, 23rd April, 1952, and to An Bord Iascaigh Mhara, as from that date to 31st March, 1954, for the provision of boats and gear to fishermen.

	£		£	ss
Repayable with Interest on an annuity basis in respect of:—		Repayments to 31st March, 1953	179,728	
(a) Advances amounting to £463,500, made up to 31st March, 1953 ...	688,384	Repayments made during year ended 31st March, 1954	20,386	
(b) Advances amounting to £75,000, made during year ended 31st March, 1954 ...	121,774	Balance outstanding:—		
		Due in arrear ...	£58,698	
		Instalments and Interest not matured ...	£551,346	610,044
	£810,158		£810,158	

NOTE.—Advances made to the Association and the Board are repayable on the basis of a twenty year annuity in half-yearly instalments.

APPENDIX No. 11.

Quantity and Value of all Salmon and Sea Trout taken in each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Instruments of Capture.

SALMON.

	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	£	£
(A)	1,851,407	1,857,049	2,584,588	525,105	471,740	673,383
(B)	211,120	225,225	247,955	59,576	55,875	67,410
(C)	371,380	426,410	542,881	100,548	96,988	139,540
(D)	893,191	841,476	1,374,481	248,711	220,824	359,074
(E)	375,707	364,838	419,271	116,270	98,059	107,350

SEA TROUT.

	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951
	lb.	lb.	lb.	£	£	£
(A)	61,838	58,050	54,377	8,431	7,682	7,765
(B)	43,826	39,307	36,368	5,621	5,001	4,856
(C)	2,308	2,536	2,942	505	344	586
(D)	13,240	15,046	12,735	1,757	1,994	1,827
(E)	2,464	1,761	2,332	348	343	496

(A) = Total for all engines.

(B) = Total for rod and line.

(C) = Total for drift nets.

(D) = Total for draft nets.

(E) = Total for stake nets, weirs, etc.

This Appendix does not include returns from the former Moyville Fishery District.

APPENDIX No. 12.

Quantity and Value of Salmon taken in each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	*	Quantity			Value		
		1953 lb.	1952 lb.	1951 lb.	1953 £	1952 £	1951 £
Dublin	R	3,171	3,477	4,947	1,129	1,027	1,480
	N	9,110	13,842	17,250	2,936	3,904	5,488
Wexford	R	16,571	23,658	29,401	5,080	5,874	8,395
	N	38,983	46,605	53,292	12,601	13,820	16,359
Waterford	R	21,660	28,202	38,343	6,189	7,633	11,058
	N	256,173	203,920	354,899	74,291	52,134	89,723
Lismore	R	18,816	26,384	33,525	4,533	5,889	8,749
	N	158,273	208,604	318,058	43,581	49,473	84,858
†Cork	R	20,310	22,092	21,410	6,117	6,600	5,889
	N	91,791	100,133	182,986	27,670	29,181	51,676
Kerry	R	20,581	20,208	16,310	5,673	5,069	4,119
	N	121,349	124,464	247,533	34,044	30,712	62,573
Limerick	R	39,550	40,139	30,034	11,379	9,899	8,251
	N	184,614	161,342	245,797	58,839	43,688	69,577
Galway	R	5,168	4,822	4,497	1,365	1,111	1,206
	N	55,657	44,571	58,934	17,538	11,924	15,254
Connemara	R	7,616	4,720	6,570	2,285	1,180	1,642
	N	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ballinakill	R	6,484	4,544	3,069	1,767	1,135	890
	N	18,960	14,594	22,657	3,640	2,498	5,560
Bangor	R	4,849	4,231	4,471	1,331	1,007	1,135
	N	64,629	44,429	79,615	16,676	10,018	17,366
Ballina	R	14,286	15,694	21,914	3,690	3,272	5,524
	N	228,220	204,816	243,507	56,200	53,912	60,444
Sligo	R	3,281	2,395	2,728	886	615	724
	N	44,720	32,908	58,482	13,859	8,591	14,132
Ballyshannon	R	3,131	2,085	6,795	810	540	1,790
	N	129,246	131,611	176,531	37,597	31,415	42,310
Letterkenny	R	15,456	11,463	9,187	4,006	2,413	2,355
	N	142,289	147,944	158,614	34,845	32,234	35,267
Dundalk	R	1,120	1,802	1,168	280	435	285
	N	23,993	43,056	41,262	6,555	10,983	9,808
Drogheda	R	9,099	8,409	13,570	3,056	2,176	3,927
	N	72,271	109,885	83,806	24,657	32,273	25,569
TOTALS ...		1,851,407	1,857,949	2,584,588	525,105	471,740	673,383

*R indicates capture by means of single rod and line; N by means of nets, weirs, etc.

†The figures for the Cork fishery district for 1951 represent the total of the figures for Cork, Bandon, Skibbereen and Bantry districts for that year.

APPENDIX No. 13.

Quantity and Value of Sea Trout taken in each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	*	Quantity			Value		
		1953 lb.	1952 lb.	1951 lb.	1953 £	1952 £	1951 £
Dublin	R	658	1,002	573	90	137	76
	N	3,059	3,540	3,583	565	506	710
Wexford	R	1,796	2,154	2,911	200	253	358
	N	2,623	5,151	2,885	291	628	290
Waterford	R	240	544	312	30	68	36
	N	890	1,586	625	158	227	87
Lismore	R	293	195	352	51	26	65
	N	2,467	1,604	777	312	199	104
Cork	R	6,165	5,258	3,023	789	690	304
	N	423	1,084	1,566	46	115	202
Kerry	R	11,212	7,914	6,831	1,429	994	953
	N	2,378	1,643	3,263	515	324	641
Limerick	R	1,874	1,238	555	228	161	94
	N	1,978	1,239	2,269	371	161	432
Galway	R	1,191	685	621	147	93	79
	N	561	274	580	70	41	142
Connemara	R	9,149	10,467	10,500	1,169	1,308	1,512
	N	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ballinakill	R	3,554	2,596	3,111	462	325	341
	N	444	415	115	52	45	14
Bangor	R	2,869	2,429	2,144	377	304	267
	N	1,459	629	178	187	115	23
Ballina	R	799	488	1,191	102	63	134
	N	171	242	91	22	30	14
Sligo	R	144	114	139	20	19	17
	N	51	Nil	110	9	Nil	22
Ballyshannon	R	86	232	37	12	29	4
	N	175	338	185	23	44	25
Letterkenny	R	2,528	2,129	3,020	312	266	411
	N	338	551	623	45	116	65
Dundalk	R	234	384	664	32	49	88
	N	471	650	494	61	81	46
Drogheda	R	1,124	1,478	474	171	216	56
	N	524	397	665	74	51	92
TOTALS	...	61,838	58,650	54,377	8,431	7,682	7,765

*R indicates capture by single rod and line; N by means of nets, weirs, etc.

†The figures for the Cork fishery district for 1951 represent the total of the figures for Cork, Bandon, Skibbereen and Bantry districts for that year.

APPENDIX No. 14.

Quantity and Value of Eels taken in each of the Three
Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	Quantity			Value		
	1953 lb.	1952 lb.	1951 lb.	1953 £	1952 £	1951 £
Waterford	9,084	10,024	4,959	667	879	354
Limerick ...	66,188	114,773	122,393	7,250	13,501	14,512
Galway ...	78,747	40,934	50,958	8,627	4,149	5,095
Bangor ...	169	Nil	Nil	12	Nil	Nil
Ballina ...	13,340	16,800	9,149	1,279	2,392	1,067
Sligo ...	7,201	Nil	3,696	522	Nil	277
Ballyshannon ...	992	14,875	1,537	50	1,099	130
Letterkenny ...	Nil	378	Nil	Nil	28	Nil
Dundalk ...	6,110	3,293	3,724	446	318	315
Drogheda ...	7,618	19,691	5,895	869	2,051	716
TOTALS	189,395	220,768	202,311	19,722	24,420	22,466

NOTE.—Eel Fishing was not carried on in the following Districts during the period 1951/53: Dublin, Wexford, Lismore, Cork, Kerry, Connemara and Ballinakill.

APPENDIX No. 15.

Total Quantity and Value of Salmon, Sea Trout and Eels taken by all engines in each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	Total Weight for District			Total Value for District		
	1953 lb.	1952 lb.	1951 lb.	1953 £	1952 £	1951 £
Dublin	15,998	21,861	26,353	4,720	5,574	7,754
Wexford	59,973	77,568	88,489	18,172	20,575	25,402
Waterford	288,047	244,276	399,138	81,335	60,941	101,258
Lismore	179,849	236,787	352,712	48,477	55,602	93,770
*Cork ...	118,689	129,467	208,985	34,622	36,584	58,131
Kerry ...	155,520	154,229	273,943	41,661	37,099	68,286
Limerick	294,204	318,731	401,048	78,067	67,410	92,866
Galway	141,234	91,286	116,590	27,756	17,318	21,776
Connemara	16,765	15,187	17,070	3,454	2,488	3,154
Ballinakill	29,422	22,149	28,962	5,921	4,903	6,805
Bangor	73,915	51,718	77,408	18,583	11,444	18,791
Ballina	256,822	238,040	275,762	61,293	58,769	67,183
Sligo ...	55,397	35,417	65,155	15,296	9,225	15,172
Ballyshannon	133,630	149,141	185,985	38,492	33,127	44,260
Letterkenny	160,611	162,465	170,854	39,208	35,057	38,098
Dundaik	31,928	49,185	50,312	7,374	11,866	10,542
Drogheda	90,636	130,860	104,410	28,827	36,770	30,360
TOTALS...	2,102,640	2,137,367	2,841,276	553,258	503,842	703,614

*The figures for the Cork fishery district for 1951 represent the total of the figures for Cork, Bandon, Skibbereen and Bantry districts for that year.

APPENDIX No. 16.

Number, Quantity and Value of Salmon taken by Single Rod and Line during each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	No. of Fish			Quantity			Value		
	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951
				lb.	lb.	lb.	£	£	£
Dublin ...	309	318	476	3,171	3,477	4,947	1,129	1,027	1,480
Wexford ...	1,591	2,023	2,566	16,571	23,658	29,401	5,080	5,874	8,395
Waterford ...	2,877	2,833	3,993	21,660	28,202	38,343	6,189	7,633	11,058
Lismore ...	2,368	2,311	3,371	18,816	26,384	33,523	4,533	5,889	8,740
*Cork ...	2,342	2,266	2,147	20,310	22,992	21,410	6,117	6,600	5,889
Kerry ...	2,730	2,200	2,020	20,581	20,208	16,316	5,673	5,069	4,119
Limerick ...	5,287	4,582	3,681	30,550	40,139	30,034	11,379	9,899	8,251
Galway ...	717	588	594	5,168	4,822	4,497	1,365	1,111	1,206
Connemara ...	1,088	472	657	7,616	4,720	6,570	2,285	1,180	1,642
Ballinakill ...	939	434	461	6,464	4,544	3,069	1,767	1,135	800
Bangor ...	668	469	542	4,849	4,231	4,471	1,331	1,007	1,135
Ballina ...	2,235	2,389	3,197	14,286	15,694	21,914	3,690	3,272	5,524
Sligo ...	429	285	351	3,281	2,395	2,728	886	615	724
Ballyshannon	359	233	759	3,131	2,085	6,795	810	540	1,700
Letterkenny ...	2,253	1,696	1,201	15,456	11,463	9,197	4,006	2,413	2,355
Dundalk ...	109	148	122	1,120	1,802	1,168	280	435	285
Drogheda ...	630	591	917	9,099	8,409	13,570	3,056	2,176	3,927
TOTALS...	26,931	23,838	27,055	211,129	225,225	247,955	59,576	55,875	67,419

*The figures for the Cork fishery district for 1951 represent the total of the figures for Cork, Bandon, Skibbereen and Bantry districts for that year.

APPENDIX No. 17.

Number, Quantity and Value of Sea Trout taken by Single Rod and Line during each of the Three Years 1951, 1952 and 1953 by Fishery Districts.

Fishery District	No. of Fish			Quantity			Value		
	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951
				lb.	lb.	lb.	£	£	£
Dublin	702	1,260	592	658	1,002	573	90	137	76
Wexford	2,633	3,378	4,132	1,706	2,154	2,911	200	253	358
Waterford	283	625	346	240	544	312	30	68	36
Lismore	292	201	270	293	195	352	51	26	65
*Cork	8,261	6,719	3,395	6,165	5,258	3,023	789	690	364
Kerry	9,519	8,185	11,499	11,212	7,914	6,831	1,429	994	953
Limerick	2,185	1,714	886	1,874	1,238	555	228	161	94
Galway	951	783	784	1,101	685	621	147	93	79
Connemara	9,149	10,467	11,089	9,149	10,467	10,500	1,169	1,308	1,512
Ballinakill	3,745	2,621	3,236	3,554	2,596	3,111	462	325	341
Bangor	3,025	2,457	2,069	2,869	2,429	2,144	377	304	267
Ballina	996	594	1,342	799	488	1,101	102	63	134
Sligo	168	111	124	144	114	139	20	19	17
Ballyshannon	106	226	49	86	232	37	12	29	5
Letterkenny	2,702	2,126	3,040	2,528	2,129	3,020	312	266	411
Dundalk	324	407	739	234	384	664	32	49	88
Drogheda	978	1,550	514	1,124	1,478	474	171	216	56
TOTALS...	46,019	43,334	44,106	43,826	39,307	36,368	5,621	5,001	4,866

*The figures for the Cork fishery district for 1951 represent the total of the figures for Cork, Bandon, Skibbereen and Bantry districts for that year.

APPENDIX No. 18.
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF BOARDS OF CONSERVATORS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Fishery District	Opening Balance	RECEIPTS						EXPENDITURE					Closing Balance
		Licence Duty	Fishery Rate	Subscriptions	Grant from Department	Miscellaneous Receipts	Total Receipts	Water Keepers	Law Costs	Salaries and Commissions	Traveling and Miscellaneous	Total Expenditure	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dublin ...	981	644	387	54	—	78	1,163	20	8	739	330	1,097	1,047
Wexford ...	634	959	889	—	—	50	1,898	1,556	—	226	313	2,095	437
Waterford ...	1,275	2,145	1,529	—	650	119	4,443	1,886	72	957	1,167	4,082	1,636
Lismore ...	1,183	1,032	3,694	20	—	471	5,217	3,067	366	882	1,205	5,520	880
Cork ...	—997	1,447	1,486	36	3,950	359	7,278	3,543	197	781	1,409	5,930	441
Kerry ...	1,178	1,339	2,497	—	1,800	293	5,030	2,466	153	1,329	1,010	4,958	1,259
Limerick ...	—1,000	2,201	4,799	104	2,500	327	9,931	5,967	359	1,839	1,906	10,071	—1,140
Galway ...	1,422	404	1,950	3	100	106	2,563	1,513	43	433	544	2,533	1,452
Connemara ...	746	529	1,459	—	—	62	2,050	1,492	56	261	274	2,083	713
Ballinakill ...	907	334	649	—	—	30	1,013	729	—	210	217	1,156	764
Bangor ...	571	609	1,082	105	250	53	2,090	1,116	29	439	386	1,970	700
Ballina ...	522	874	2,204	—	—	207	3,285	2,094	2	554	537	3,187	620
Sligo ...	443	557	844	—	—	43	1,144	464	3	280	190	937	650
Ballyshannon ...	553	590	1,267*	271	1,000	177	3,305	2,074	16	418	775	3,283	575
Letterkenny ...	1,422	1,379	1,014†	—	—	101	2,494	1,554	7	385	512	2,458	1,458
Drogheda ...	974	1,252	1,126	—	100	9	2,487	1,742	33	467	240	2,482	979
Dundalk ...	163	239	357	—	15	35	646	289	21	321	62	693	116
TOTALS	11,067	16,234	27,143	593	9,565	2,520	56,565	31,572	1,365	10,521	11,977	54,535	12,567

*This figure includes £931 received under Section 14 (1) of the Fisheries (Tidal Waters) Act, 1934.

†This figure includes £119 received under Section 14 (1) of the Fisheries (Tidal Waters) Act, 1934.

Sums received by way of Special Local Licence duty which were paid over to the Exchequer in accordance with Section 13 of the Fisheries (Tidal Waters) Act, 1934, are not included in this Table.

APPENDIX No. 19.

PARTICULARS OF LICENCES ISSUED BY BOARDS OF
CONSERVATORS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Fishery District	Salmon Rod				Snap Net	Draft Net	Drift Net	Pole Net	Bag Net	Stake Net	Box or Crib	Gap, Eye or Basket for Eels	Long Lines for Eels	Loop Net	Head Weir	Eel Trap	Special Licence (Total Waters)
	For one year (12)	For 14 days (11)	Issuable at £1 from 1st July onwards	Endorsement or Extension													
Dublin ...	226	—	39	15	—	11	33	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wexford ...	193	56	110	62	—	93	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterford ...	613	23	—	37	125	20	91	—	1	4	3	26	—	—	—	—	—
Lismore ...	274	85	—	45	22	12	68	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cork ...	414	62	112	26	—	82	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerry ...	334	247	—	111	1	65	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick ...	669	42	—	97	—	77	76	—	—	4	4	36	11	—	—	—	—
Galway ...	58	48	104	23	—	6	—	—	—	—	5	21	4	—	—	—	—
Connemara ...	77	323	—	97	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballinakill ...	87	92	—	47	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bangor ...	131	153	—	59	—	33	2	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ballina ...	154	157	55	90	—	10	39	—	—	—	7	41	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo ...	94	9	—	5	—	6	3	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ballyshannon	97	—	—	13	—	58	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	33
Lettterkenney	403	149	—	43	—	33	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	16
Drogheda ...	270	12	—	83	—	146	—	—	—	—	6	3	1	—	—	3	—
Dundalk ...	43	—	35	9	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	4,137	1,458	455	862	148	688	399	3	6	10	32	138	18	37	1	3	49

APPENDIX No. 20.

Licence Duty payable on the undermentioned fishing engines.

	£	s.	d.
On each Salmon Rod (for full year in one District) ...	2	0	0
Do. Salmon Rod (14 days licence issuable where Board of Conservators so resolves) ...	1	0	0
Do. Salmon Rod (special licence available 1st July to end of season issuable where a Board of Conservators so resolves) ...	1	0	0
Do. Salmon Rod (Endorsement, extending a current licence to another District) ...	0	10	0
Do. Snap Net ...	2	10	0
Do. Draft Net or Seine ...	4	0	0
Do. Drift Net ...	3	0	0
Do. Bag Net ...	10	0	0
Do. Fly Net ...	30	0	0
Do. Stake Net ...	30	0	0
Do. Head Weir ...	6	0	0
Do. Box or Crib ...	10	0	0
Do. Gap, Eye, or Basket (in eel weir) ...	2	0	0
Do. Long Line for Eels ...	2	0	0

On other engines the duty is as follows:—

Fishery District	Pole Net	Loop Net	Reel Trap	Special Local Licences	
				Rod	Draft Net
	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
1. Dublin ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
2. Wexford ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
3. Waterford ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
4. Lismore ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
5. Cork ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
7. Kerry ...	1 0	—	—	—	—
8. Limerick ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
9 ¹ . Galway ...	2 0	—	15 0	—	—
9 ² . Connemara ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
10 ¹ . Ballinakill ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
10 ² . Banger ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
11. Ballina ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
12. Sligo ...	2 0	—	—	—	—
13. Ballyshannon ...	2 0	0 10	2 0	*2 0	*10 0
14 ¹ . Letterkenny ...	2 0	—	—	†2 0	†20 0
17 ¹ . Drogheda ...	2 0	0 10	2 0	—	—
17 ² . Dundalk ...	2 0	—	—	—	—

*River Erne Tidal Waters. †River Lough Tidal Waters.

‡River Owenoe Tidal Waters.

APPENDIX No. 21.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES HELD DURING THE YEAR 1953.

Date of Inquiry	Where held	Subject Matter	Decision taken by Parliamentary Secretary on considering report of inquiry
27th May, 1953	Loughrea ...	Close season for angling in the Kileolgan or Dunkellin River, including Lough Rea, and fixing of size limit on trout captured in those waters.	Close season for trout altered; taking of trout less than 9" in length prohibited.
2nd September, 1953	Abbeyfeale	Use of gaffs on the River Feale.	Use of Gaff as auxiliary to angling for salmon prohibited from 1st May to end of open season upstream of Finuge Bridge.
3rd September, 1953	Fernoy	Close season for angling in Lismore Fishery District and use of gaffs during annual close season for angling.	No change made in close season; use of gaffs as auxiliary to lawful angling, e.g., for coarse fish, during close season prohibited.
24th November, 1953	Askeaton	Fishing in vicinity of Askeaton Bridge.	Fishing on or within 100 yards downstream of Askeaton Bridge prohibited.

APPENDIX No. 22.

ABSTRACT OF BYE-LAWS, ETC., MADE DURING THE
YEAR 1953.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

(a) Sea Fisheries.

Shellfish (Regulation of Export) Order, 1953 (S.I. No. 159 of 1953), dated 13th May, 1953.

PROHIBITING the export of shellfish otherwise than to Great Britain and the Six Counties save under licence.

(b) Inland Fisheries.

Fisheries (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order, 1953 (S.I. No. 281 of 1953), dated 28th August, 1953.

DELEGATING the powers and duties of the Minister for Agriculture under the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1953 (No. 16 of 1953), to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister.

Shannon Fisheries (Closing of Free Gap) (No. 15) Order, 1953 (S.I. No. 41 of 1953), dated 29th January, 1953, and Shannon Fisheries (Closing of Free Gap) (No. 16) Order, 1953 (S.I. No. 408 of 1953), dated 22nd December, 1953.

AUTHORISING the Electricity Supply Board for the purpose of acquiring statistical information to close the free gap in the Thomond fishing weir, Limerick, during certain specified periods in the years 1953 and 1954, respectively, subject to certain conditions as to release of fish taken in the traps of the weir.

BYE-LAWS.

No. 10² or Bangor District.

Bye-Law No. 481—dated 15th April, 1953.

PROHIBITING the use of gaffs as auxiliary to fishing with rod and line in the Newport and Burrishoole Rivers and their tributaries before 1st May in each year; and the possession of gaffs on or near the banks of those rivers before 1st May in each year.

No. 9¹ or Galway District.

Bye-Law No. 482—dated 30th December, 1953.

PROHIBITING the taking or killing in the waters of the Kilcolgan or Dunkellin River and its lakes and tributaries, including Lough Rea, of any trout of less than nine inches in length, and the possession of any such fish on or near the banks of the waters specified.

Bye-Law No. C.S. 106—dated 30th December, 1953.

PRESCRIBING the Annual Close Season for angling for brown trout in the Kilcolgan or Dunkellin River and its lakes and tributaries, including Lough Rea, from 16th September in each year to 16th March in the year following.

APPENDIX No. 23.

OUTPUT OF SALMON AND TROUT FRY, 1953/54.

Hatching or Enlarging Station	Where liberated	Salmon	Sea Trout	Brown Trout
Crumlin (Co. Dublin) ...	Brittas Lake ...	—	—	4,500
Bray	Upper Vartry Lake ...	—	—	19,500
Roundwood	Roundwood Reservoir ...	—	—	18,800
Curragh Camp	Tributaries of River Liffey ...	—	—	24,800
Carlow	Rivers Burin and Greese ...	—	—	5,000
Buncelody	Rivers Slaney, Liffey and Rye ...	170,000	—	40,000
Abbeyleix	River Nore ...	—	—	13,000
Lismore	Rivers Blackwater, Suir and Tar and Ballyseanlon Lake ...	20,000	—	38,000
Cork (St. Anne's) ...	River Lee and tributaries ...	—	—	26,000
Banteer and Mallow ...	Rivers Blackwater, Finnaw, Clyde, Mounseabbey, Keithera, Awbeg, Dallau, Bride and Funcheon and Kileooley Abbey Lake ...	600,000	—	120,000
Skibbereen	Tributaries of River Ilen ...	18,000	—	—
Glengarriff	Lake Aval ...	—	—	5,000
Sneem	Sneem River and Dromtine Lake ...	11,000	—	—
Kenmare (Lord Bruntisfield's)	Sheen River ...	28,500	—	—
Kenmare (Kenmare Anglers' Club) ...	Cloonee Lake and Lake Cunnerlough ...	—	—	10,000
Waterville	Rivers Coppal, Cunnoragh and Tarmens ...	10,000	—	—
Killarney	Rivers Deenagh and Flesk ...	75,000	—	22,000
Adare	Rivers Maigue and Camogue ...	—	—	26,000
Cullane	Cullane Lake and inflowing stream ...	—	—	35,000
Loughrea	Lough Rea ...	—	—	40,000
Athlone	Tributaries of Rivers Shannon and Inny ...	5,000	—	10,000
Rosecommon	River Hind ...	—	—	14,000
Tham	Rivers Nanny and Clare ...	—	—	1,970
Spiddal	Spiddal River ...	19,000	—	—
Crumlin (Co. Galway) ...	Crumlin River and Lakes ...	29,500	6,700	—
Oughterard	Lough Corrib and Renvyle Lake ...	—	—	382,000
Scecebe	Scecebe and Furnace fisheries ...	11,950	4,850	—
Clifden	Lake Padda ...	—	—	19,700
Kylemore	Loughs Muck and Fee ...	3,000	—	—
Treanlar	Barrishoole and Newport Rivers ...	100,170	—	—

APPENDIX No. 23—continued.

Hatching or Enlarging Station	Where liberated	Salmon	Sea Trout	Brown Trout
Ballisodure	Tributaries of Rivers Arrow and Owenmore.	126,000	—	—
Collooney	Lakes Bo, Toberseanavan and Castledargan	—	—	10,000
Sligo	Lough Gill and Colga Lake	—	9,500	14,800
Glencar	Diffreen River, Bonet River and tributaries	7,500	—	14,250
Glenties...	River Owenca and other Donegal rivers and lakes	204,000	12,000	53,000
Newtownstewart	Rivers Finn, Faughan, Roe, Derg and Strule	50,000	—	—
Clones	Clones Reservoir and Loughanabany Lake	—	—	39,500
Belturbet	River Erne	—	—	19,600
Cavan	Cornaseer Lake and rivers near Cavan	—	—	19,000
Mount Talbot	River Suck system	—	—	48,000
Lough Sheelin	River Suck system, Little Brosna system, Toberseanavan Lake, Castledargan Lake, Lake Bo, Lake Major, River Dee, and rivers flowing into Lough Sheelin	—	—	367,500
Lough Owel	Lough Owel and tributaries of River Barrow	—	—	219,000
Lough Ennell	Loughs Ennell and Glore	—	—	334,000
Ballybay	Lake Major	—	—	5,000
Virginia...	River Blackwater	—	—	18,000
Imiskeen	Rivers Fane and Castletown	4,375	—	30,000
Drumeonrath	River Dee	—	—	4,000
Blackcastle	Rivers Liffey, Deel, Boyno, Blackwater, Nanny, Trimblestown and Delvin and Drogheda Reservoir	85,000	—	108,400
	TOTALS	1,577,995	33,050	2,182,320

NOTE:—In addition to the output of fry recorded in the above table for the Lismore, Killarney, Glenties, Lough Owel and Lough Ennell hatcheries, the following quantities of eyed ova were despatched from those hatcheries to other stations and are included in the figures for the latter, viz., Lismore, 256,000 salmon ova, Killarney 30,000 salmon ova, Glenties 94,000 salmon ova, Lough Owel 400,000 brown trout ova, Lough Ennell 416,000 brown trout ova.

The figure of 219,000 fry shown in the table as having been enlarged at Lough Owel includes 25,000 brown trout ova brought to the fry stage on behalf of the Barrow Anglers' Club.

APPENDIX No. 24.

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS BY OFFICERS OF THE FISHERIES
BRANCH PUBLISHED DURING THE YEAR.

- F. A. GIBSON. "Tagging of escallops (*Pecten maximum* L.) in Ireland." *Journal du Conseil*. XIX No. 2, 1953, pp. 204-8.
- F. A. GIBSON. "Salmon movements around Ireland. II. From Baginbun, Co. Wexford (1949 to 1951)." *Proceedings Royal Irish Academy*, 55 B. 10.
- F. A. GIBSON. "Brook Lamprey, *Lampetra branchialis* Day in a Westmeath stream." *Irish Nat. Jour.*, xi. 86-9.
- ANN HEALY. "Trout in Lough Rea." *Scientific Proceedings, Royal Dublin Society*, 26. No. 9.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT. "Stone basse *Polyprrion cernium* Day off the Cork Coast," and "Sting ray, *Trygon Pastinaca* L., from the west coast of Ireland." *Irish Nat. Jour.*, xx. 52-3.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT. "Specimen of *Scorpaena dactyloptera* Delaroche, from Dingle Bay." *Irish Nat. Jour.*, xi. 107.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT. "Salmon movements around Ireland, III. From Carnlough, Co. Antrim (1950 and 1951)." *Proceedings Royal Irish Academy*, 55 B. 11.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT. "Notes on some Irish char *Salvelinus* spp. IV." *Irish Nat. Jour.*, xi. 91-97.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT with F. A. GIBSON. "Salmon movements around Ireland, IV. From Streedagh, Co. Sligo (1951 and 1952)." *Proceedings Royal Irish Academy*, 56 B. 1.
- ARTHUR E. J. WENT with K. U. VICKERS. "Salmon movements around Ireland, V. From North Co. Antrim (1951 and 1952)." *Proceedings Royal Irish Academy*, 56 B. 2.

